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SENATE BILL 1505
By Rochelle

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, relative to
court information and reporting.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-3-803(h) is hereby amended by deleting the words “as established by the rules of the supreme court” in the last sentence and by adding the following language:

To ensure comparable data from all courts, the system shall be designed using a standard definition of a case. For the purposes of TnCIS a case is defined as a suit, charge, count, or petition or set of charges, counts, and petitions involving a single individual arising out of a single incident filed on the same day. An incident involves all charges associated with a single individual occurring at the same time and place. The docket number is to be the distinct identifying number for each case filed and disposed. In cases where there is a co-defendant,

each co-defendant is to be assigned a separate docket number. Furthermore, the system shall be designed to count total number of cases and charges, by type and class, for each court. Type of case is to be standardized as a felony or misdemeanor for criminal cases; and dependency/neglect, unruly, or delinquent for juvenile cases. The system shall be designed to include Tennessee Code Annotated citation information, and have the capability to use this information to classify the type and class of each case, and individual counts, charges, and petitions associated with each case. If a case has more than one charge, count, or petition, the system shall be designed to count the case according to the highest class of charge or petition.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-21-107(a)(5)(B) is hereby amended by adding the language “the council on juvenile and family court judges” between the language “appropriate conference,” and “and the administrative office of the courts” in the second sentence, and by adding the following language at the end of the second sentence:

This information shall include caseload totals by appropriate case type for each study and total number of judicial, district attorney, and public defender resources for each district. This data is to be provided to the comptroller in electronic and hard copy form by August 1 each year. All caseload information shall be reported according to a standard definition of a case. For the purposes of the weighted caseload studies, a case is defined as a suit, charge, count, or petition or set of charges, counts, and petitions involving a single individual arising out of a single incident filed on the same day. An incident involves all charges associated with a single individual occurring at the same time and place. The docket number is to be the distinct identifying number for each case filed and disposed.

In cases where there is a co-defendant, each co-defendant is to be assigned a separate docket number. For the judges study the type of case is to be standardized as civil and felony, misdemeanor, and criminal other for criminal cases. For the district attorney and public defender studies cases shall be reported by the following classifications:

- Capital/1st degree murder
- Felony A
- Felony B
- Felony C
- Felony D
- Felony E
- Misdemeanor
- Juvenile
- Probation violation
- Post-judgement action
- Appeal
- Other

If a case has more than one charge or count, it shall be counted according to the highest class of charge or petition. In addition to qualitative data, each conference shall submit a report by October 1 each year outlining any findings and recommendations related to qualitative issues that it wishes to be considered in the update.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.